[Mr. R. Nilakanta Pillai].

(*b*) The information is not available as the travelling allowance paid to officers for their journeys in connection with flood relief measures is not separately classified.

(*c*) This does not arise, in view of the answer to part (*b*) above.

Circular regarding filling of vacancies in the several offices.

11. **MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI** (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have issued instructions to the various Departments not to fill up vacancies until otherwise ordered; and

(*b*) whether they are satisfied that the Heads of Departments adhere to such instructions, if any?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): (*a*) A circular has been issued to all Heads of Departments and offices to the effect that all permanent vacancies should be left open pending final orders of the Government on the question of reduction of establishment charges.

(*b*) A circular has been issued by the Audit Department to all Heads of Departments and Offices to the effect that all drawing and countersigning officers of the establishment pay bills presented for encashment should furnish the following certificate in all monthly pay bills:—

"Certified that no person whose pay is claimed in this bill has been confirmed since the date of the Government circular No. Fl. 1444, dated the 3rd September 1931."

Interpellations received and answered during the Budget Session of the Council, 1106.

12. **MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI** (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the number of interpellations put up by members of the Council before the last (1106) Budget session; and

(*b*) the number answered?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): (*a*) 239 questions were given notice of by the members, of which 225 were admitted.

(*b*) Answers to 132 questions were furnished to the Council.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): May I know why the remaining questions are left unanswered?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): It is because information for answering those questions could not be obtained from the various departments in time.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): So, are the officers not in default in not supplying information to the Government for answering the interpellations in time?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): It cannot be said that the officers are at fault. I consider it to be unjustifiable to

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

say so, because the officers require some time to get the information required from the subordinate officers. It may therefore be due not to any fault of theirs that they were not able to supply the information in time.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakkara* cum *Kunnattur*): Is the member answering my question on the strength of the explanation, if any, obtained from those officers who did not supply the information in time?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): So far as this question is concerned, my reply is based on the records available in the office and not on explanations obtained from officers, as no explanation was called for in respect of any particular delay. Orders are issued to all Heads of Departments to supply the information, necessary for answering interpellations in the Council, promptly. When any delay is noticed, reminders are sent to them and that process is carried on till the information required is obtained.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): May I know why no action has been taken against those officers who did not supply the Government with information in regard to these interpellations even after this repeated process of sending reminders or requisitions?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): It was not considered that the officers were at fault.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): May I know what is the reason which made Government to conclude that the officers were not at fault?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): Government always find that the officers are prompt in supplying information. But it sometimes happens that the information supplied is insufficient and a reference is made back for additional information. It is that that often delays the answering of interpellations; and therefore it cannot be attributed to the default of officers.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): So, is it the general policy of Government to conclude that the officers would have supplied the information promptly, if possible, and to satisfy themselves with the consolation that they were not at fault?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): Certainly not. When the Government find that a certain officer is at fault, they take action at once, call for his explanation and pass appropriate orders.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Then, may I know why no such action was taken in this respect?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): In this case Government did not think that any officer was at fault.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): What is the reason that induced Government to conclude like that?

I want to know the grounds on which Government arrived at this conclusion?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): I submit, Sir, that question has already been answered. If I am to answer this question again, it would only be a repetition of what I have already said.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Sir, I have a doubt to be cleared. Unlike in the case of other official matters, Government were induced to conclude that the officers who did not supply the information required in time were not at fault. Sir, I wish to know the ground, the particular ground, for the Government to conclude like that?

PRESIDENT: I believe the answers given by the official member would indicate sufficiently well that, having regard to the nature of the question and having regard to the correspondence that passed between the Head of the Department and the Government, there was no such delay as to induce Government to take any action. Government therefore thought that no action need be taken in the matter, and did not therefore call for any explanation.

Accommodation in the Ophthalmic Hospital.

13. MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the largest number of in-patients that had to be accommodated at one time in the Ophthalmic Hospital;

(*b*) the number of beds that are available in the Ophthalmic Hospital for the accommodation of in-patients; and

(*c*) whether any difficulty is experienced in providing accommodation for the in-patients that resort to the institution?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): (*a*) 69,

(*b*) 51.

(*c*) Yes; and steps are being taken with a view to provide additional accommodation.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): With regard to part (*b*) of the answer, may I know how many in-patients could be accommodated in the permanent building of the Ophthalmic Hospital?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): Of course, the answer given is in regard to the accommodation available in the permanent building.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Am I to understand that the member is not aware of some temporary sheds being put up for accommodating the in-patients?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): If there be any temporary sheds, I do not find them from the records available, before me.

Appointments made in the Police Department during 1105 and 1106.

14. MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state the number of appointments made during 1105 and 1106 in the Police Department and the number of Muslims who got such appointments?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly